

32-1942

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union  
March 18, 1942

## Big Brothers Hold Session

### Probation Officer Reviews Work With Juveniles.

The monthly meeting of Big Brothers was held yesterday in the dining room of the First Christian Church. It was presided over by J. Finley Tucker, chairman of the Big Brother committee.

Principal speaker for the meeting was Probation Officer J. S. Lanier, who gave a brief summary of the work done by the Juvenile Court especially in its supervisory and after care of children coming before the court. The appropriations approved for the present budget year by the Board of County Commissioners and the Budget Commission totaled \$70,966.

Under this appropriation the court handled 1570 children during the past year and had an active probation load of 57 children per month, Lanier reported. For the children in the Parental Home for Girls, the Parental Homes for negro boys and girls, boarding and foster home care, and temporary care in the Children's Home Society there was a total of 121 children each month, he stated.

In addition to the work of care for children Mr. Lanier showed that 184 parents were brought before the court for non-support of 319 children of the community with \$10,735 collected and paid to mothers or relatives caring for the children and \$1,753 paid back to the county treasury. The investment that the county is making for the care of underprivileged children is one in which every citizen may take pride and satisfaction, according to Mr. Lanier.

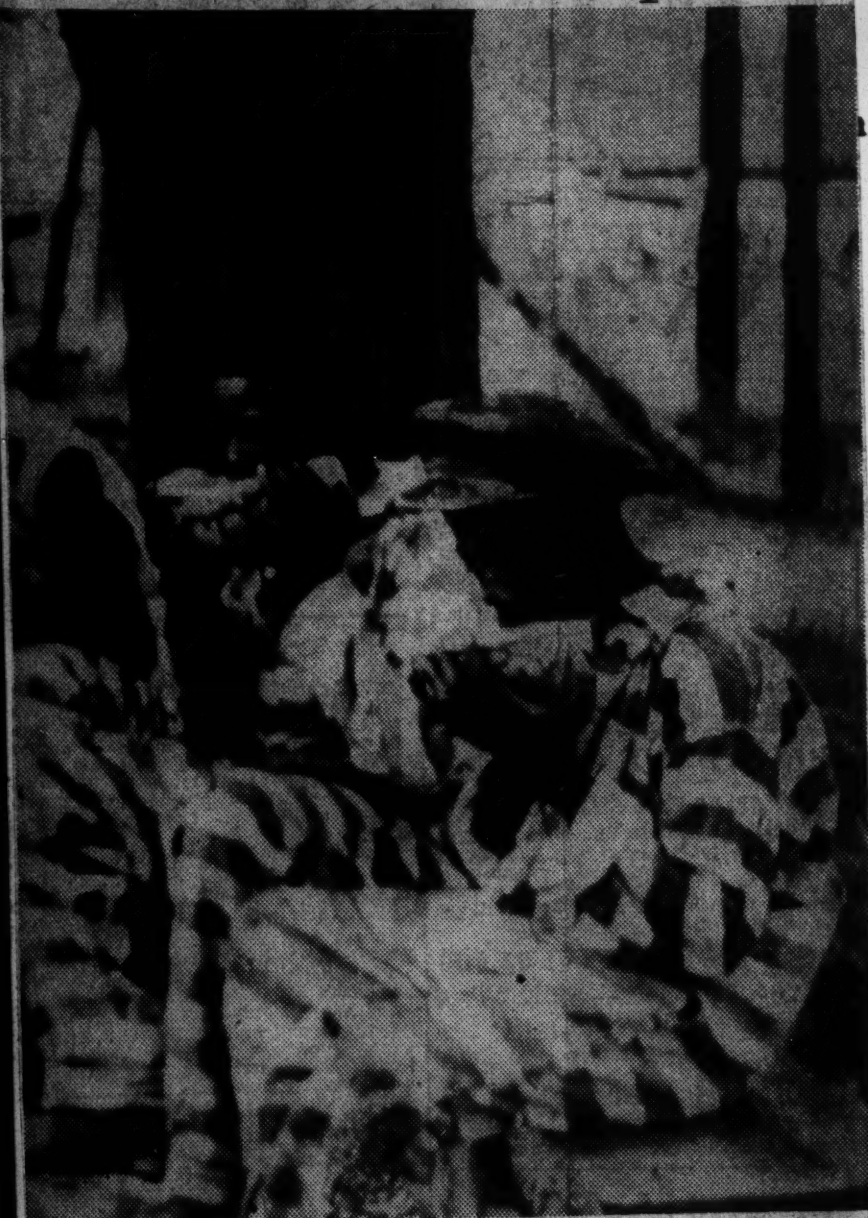
Special guests attending the luncheon were: P. M. Burroughs, chairman of the Budget Commission; Joe F. Hammond, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners; Tom Marshall and Howard Belote, county commissioners, and Mrs. Downing Knight, member of the Board of Managers of the Parental Home.

Mrs. W. S. Criswell, assistant executive secretary and director of the Big Brother and Social Service Department, gave a report of the month's activity, the number of Big

Brothers engaged in work with Little Brothers, and the interest being shown in the work. Mrs. Criswell reported a total of 359 boys given service during the month.



## Watermelon Helps



It isn't too bad for the negro delinquents sent to the Hinds county penal farm; it just isn't any good. The state legislature last spring appropriated \$100,000 for a reformatory, such as the one at Columbia for white juvenile offenders. No steps toward the reformatory's construction or appointment of a governing board have been taken. Meanwhile, youthful negro lawbreakers serve the legally limited brief sentences on the farm, are dismissed before discipline there can make an impression upon their blithe anti-social attitudes, and until the next arrest places them back on the farm are meanwhile free to roam about Jackson and its environs, a menace to every home and citizen of Hinds county.

## Solons Gave Juveniles \$100,000--Didn't They?

The richest district in the richest county in the state doesn't need to cultivate negro delinquents as a source of revenue. Yet, because of official complacency in regard to the \$100,000 appropriation for a state reformatory for negro delinquents that is virtually what must continue at the Hinds penal farm, the little house-breakers and petty thieves go, along with the road gangs, to the high-wind-dried cells of the square, stone structure, because there's no place

for a state reformatory for negro delinquents that is virtually what must continue at the Hinds penal farm. In the little house-breakers and petty thieves go, along with the road gangs, to the high-wind-dried cells of the square, stone structure, because there's no place

## MISSISSIPPI

else to send them. They serve their short terms, or they are killed, and pretty soon the same undisturbed gain or resentful glower appears just over the judge's desk again. Houses are robbed, bad checks passed, and men are foully murdered and hidden in a well.

That the young boys work, at the county farm, is not censured. It's exactly the corrective-occupational therapy, as it were, that would be employed at a reformatory, and the best thing for them. But that they should be committed to an institution for hardened criminals leads to interruptions through bails and short sentences in desperately needed discipline, leads to repeated delinquencies and finally to state penitentiary candidates, a liability and menace to society.

While committals to a reformatory could be made long enough to rein in their untamed young spirits, legal limits for petty crimes of minors are placed on penal farm sentences. Even those sentences of a few months are broken by bails—with usually baleful results.

One would-be savior and, incidentally, employer put up bond for a house breaker, put him to work out in the country. The same evening the boy collected two house-break hauls on the way back to town.

Yet the money to remove these recurrent menaces to society, and in many cases return to society within a few years a citizen and an asset, that money for a reformatory was appropriated at the spring session of the legislature. The next step is appointment of a governing board by the governor. So far, as well as can be determined, not a foot has been lifted to take that step.

According to Dell Fairchild, superintendent of the Hinds county farm, the greatest virtue of the reformatory would be sustained discipline for delinquents at their most dangerous adolescent age. If there are any evil influences cast about between the diverse ages, however, he claims the tough little youngsters he gets, and gets back, can show their elder convicts plenty.

According to Supervisor Perry Luckett, a state reformatory for the negro delinquents would make possible the scrapping of the county penal farm, with a consequent reduction of almost 50 per cent in the cost of supporting the convicts. While upkeep at the farm costs \$1

a day, the sheriff can keep county lawbreakers in the county jail for 50 cents a day. Their man power would not be lost either, for the prisoners would still be obtainable from the jail for road work.

According to Jackson Chief of Police Joel Holden, "A child whether he is white or black should not be confined to prison with hardened criminals. I would like to see them build a reformatory because it would solve the problem of what

to do with perpetual offenders." Until "they" build a reformatory, Hinds county delinquents are well taken care of, temporarily—any care at all at the farm must be temporary. When Dell Fairchild came there, it was not so. Thirty-three inmates were sleeping on 13 beds, and the floor. A rest period in the day was unheard of, and it is interesting to wonder what the reaction of former superintendents would have been to the ice-cold watermelons passed around the morning I was there.

The food is wholesome—the inmates help see to that. In two hours and 40 minutes, Mr. Fairchild and the boys canned 175 cans of tomatoes. In the canning and cold storage plant, meat and vegetables from the farm are kept.

The juveniles work only 8½ or 9 hours a day, and there's even a pond they can swim in. It's not a bad situation; better, in fact, than most of them come from. It might be easier to write a reform story if it were bad, if the punishment of French penal colonies and the fare of German concentration camps might be imputed to our county farm.

But it's not bad; it's just that it's not any good. The committal of negro delinquents to the Hinds county farm is a system perpetuating itself in a cycle of offenses, short criminal sentences, dismissal and offense. And one of the most dangerous classes in Jackson and Hinds county is freed to roam periodically over the countryside, breaking into houses, signing bad checks, committing, it may be, unspeakable murder.

The legislators saw that, appropriated \$100,000 to correct the practice. Why haven't "they" done something?

## Commercial Appeal Memphis, Tennessee

## NEGRO REFORMATORY BOARD IS COMPLETED

AUG 19 1942  
Chairman A. H. Stone Of Tax  
Commission On List

From The Commercial Appeal  
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 18.—Governor Johnson Tuesday reached into the ranks of men he said have never supported him, to complete his list of appointments to the newly created Board of Trustees of the negro juvenile reformatory.

Chairman A. H. Stone of the State Tax Commission completed the seven-member board which will handle the program for erection of the reformatory on the old penitentiary grounds in Hinds County.

The Legislature voted \$80,000 for erection of the building and \$50,000 for its administration. Mrs. Horace Stansel, member of the Legislature from Sunflower County, authored the proposal. There is no reformatory for negro juveniles in Mississippi.

Plans call for use of material from the old insane hospital property in North Jackson for the building program which will likely get under way as soon as the board meets to organize.

Members of the board previously named by Governor Johnson are L. O. Crosby, industrialist of Pica-yune; Aubrey Bell, attorney of Greenwood, and the following ex-officio members. The Governor; P. H. Easom, director of negro education in the state Department of Education; B. S. 1942, superintendent of the state penitentiary and the chairman of the state eleemosynary board.



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Charlotte, N. C. Observer  
April 8, 1942

# CITY 'QUARTERS' FOR NEGRO BOYS ARE REJECTED

District Attorney Says Inspec-  
tor Rules It Out.

MAY USE COUNTY JAIL

Ruling Does Not Apply to  
Other Portions Of South  
Mint Street Quarters.

Lamar Caudle, Federal  
district attorney, yesterday  
said he had come to the  
conclusion that male Negro  
juvenile prisoners of Federal  
authorities would no longer  
be kept in the Mecklenburg  
juvenile detention quarters  
on South Mint street because  
an inspector of the Federal  
Bureau of Prisons had failed  
to approve the quarters as  
meeting the Federal require-  
ments.

Plans are to use the Mecklenburg  
county jail on top of the courthouse  
for the Negro boys detained by Fed-  
eral authorities, District Attorney  
Caudle said. The Federal inspector  
appeared to find nothing very badly  
wrong with the juvenile detention  
quarters used for white boys and  
girls, and for Negro girls.

The "thumbs down" ruling appli-  
ed only to the quarters for Negro  
male juveniles, it was understood.  
Authorities explained that the rul-  
ing will have very little effect on  
the situation, anyhow, since very  
few Federal juveniles are cared for  
at the county detention quarters.

USED VERY LITTLE.

The quarters are maintained large-  
ly for emergency detention of juve-  
niles by local authorities. The policy  
of the juvenile court is to have boys

and girls with whom it must deal  
placed in the proper correctional  
institutions when their cases seem  
to demand any sort of punishment.  
The practice of putting juveniles in  
"jail" is frowned upon by local  
juvenile court authorities. Because  
of these facts the juvenile detention  
quarters often are completely un-  
populated.

## OPPOSES "JAIL" ATMOSPHERE.

The general fault found with the  
quarters used for detention of male  
Negro juveniles of the Federal au-  
thorities was that cells are used. The  
use of cells gives the "jail" atmos-  
phere to the quarters, and juveniles  
are supposed to be kept in rooms  
when they have to be locked up.  
Only in the one section of the juve-  
nile building are cells used, it is  
understood.

Federal officials are said to plan  
to lodge male Negro delinquents in  
future in the main county jail. The  
only possible obstacle to this plan  
would be the regulation of  
State welfare authorities that juve-  
niles must be lodged in buildings  
other than those used for the deten-  
tion of adults.

Yesterday it was learned, how-  
ever, that State institutional offi-  
cials would be asked to investigate  
the possibility of lodging the Fed-  
eral male Negro juveniles in the  
main jail where they will be segre-  
gated from the adult prisoners.

NORTH CAROLINA



# Judge Bolin Exposes Case Of Juveniles

Justice Jane M. Bolin of the domestic relations court this week submitted for newspaper publication a report of her remarks before a session of the board of estimate, April 16, during which she scored the lack of facilities in New York juvenile delinquency set-ups for the proper handling of Negro children.

According to Judge Bolin's report, while the percentage of white delinquent children appearing in children's court last year (1941) dropped 7% over the previous year (1940), the number of Negro children increased 23%, and has been steadily increasing for the past few years.

Judge Bolin lays this to: increase in population; under privileged economic and social status of the masses of Negro families, with attendant health problems; sub-standard and insufficient housing facilities; inadequate recreational opportunities, and scarcity of private social agencies servicing the Negro family and child before their problems become sufficiently acute to warrant court action.

One dominant factor causing the increase of delinquency in Negro children, Judge Bolin attributed to the fact that so-called private institutions refuse to accept Negro children. Judge Bolin charges that these institutions are private only in control, but are tax-exempt and are supported by contributions and public monies paid by the City of New York, not being allowed to operate without a certificate from the state department of social welfare. In spite of this, most of them have a closed-door policy against Negro children.

Judge Bolin gave one pathetic case history, the story of a youngster, an intelligent, charming little lad whose home conditions were so tragic the child begged to be removed from his home, and asked to be sent to Children's Village, having heard about the Village from some of the white boys at the SPCC shelter.

A few days later, the youngster revealed that "the lady at the Shelter told me I can't go to Children's Village because I am colored."

New York Times  
New York, N. Y.

## NEGROES' SCHOOL FACED BY CLOSING

Wiltwyck, Near Kingston,  
Makes Plans to Continue  
Treatment of Delinquents

\$50,000 MUST BE RAISED

Marshall Field Agrees to Give  
\$10,000 if Board Succeeds  
in Collecting the Rest

Plans to raise funds for the continuance of the Wiltwyck School for Boys, near Kingston, N. Y., the only institution in the metropolitan area for the treatment of delinquent Negro Protestant boys between the ages of 8 and 12, were drafted yesterday afternoon at a meeting in St. Nicholas Collegiate Church, Fifth Avenue, 154th Street.

The Rev. Dr. Eugene C. Carder, associate pastor of Riverside Church, announced the formation of a board of governors that would operate the school if it could raise the necessary \$50,000 by June 30. The school's financial crisis was occasioned by the recent announcement of the New York Protestant Episcopal City Mission Society that it would be unable to continue sponsorship of the institution because of lack of funds.

It was disclosed at the meeting that Marshall Field had agreed to contribute \$10,000 if the board were successful in raising the balance. Among those who have accepted positions on the board are Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Lieut. Gov. Charles Poletti, Dr. Viola W. Bernard, Paul Blanshard, Judge Jane Bolin of Children's Court, Mr. Field, Maxwell Hahn, Presiding Judge John Warren Hill of the Domestic Relations Court, and City Councilman Stanley M. Isaacs.

Also Dr. Marion E. Kenworthy, Austin MacCormack, Mrs. Vivian C. Mason, Myer D. Mermin, Judge Justin W. Poller, Henry W. Pope, Mr. Eliot R. Rabinowitz, Robert W. Searle of the Greater New York Federation of Churches, Channing H. Tobias, Dr. Caroline B. Zachery and Dr. Carder, who will serve as chairman.

Judge Hill was the principal

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speaker at the meeting and he cited case histories to show that if the Wiltwyck School were not continued many Negro boys literally would have to be forced to resume a life that had led them into trouble. He noted that Negro delinquency had increased 23.1 per cent in the last year and that there was no abatement in sight.

Time

## Chicago, Illinois

In 2042? Although the LaGuardia administration has kicked out the spoils system and instituted competitive tests even for big jobs, most of the city's teachers hate Mayor LaGuardia. Reason: he annually cuts the school budget to the bone, has eliminated thousands of jobs. Today there are 2,000 fewer teachers than two years ago; in the budget for the coming year LaGuardia proposes not only to leave vacancies unfilled but for the first time to dismiss some 475 permanent appointees. The Mayor's point: enrollment in the city's schools has dropped nearly 150,000 in the last six years (because of the falling birth rate). The teachers' retort: in the city's schools there are still more than 10,000 unmanageably big classes (42 pupils or more).

As it started its second century, New York City's school system was in the midst of an upheaval. Its elementary schools were being converted from stem to stern to Progressive Education, which had been tried (with hopeful results) in 70 schools. The 1942 Board of Education hoped that by 2042 the school system would no longer be famed merely as the world's biggest.

Kids & Teachers. New York City's school kids come from homes that speak 40 different languages. They live in some of the world's worst slums, have one of the world's highest juvenile delinquency rates. In Harlem and Brooklyn no man's lands, boys sometimes frighten their teachers by pulling knives in classrooms. At least 5,000 of the city's schoolboys are chronic truants.

The city's teachers, the world's best-paid (a teacher's top: \$4,500; superintendent's: \$25,000), include some of the world's worst as well as some of the best. As a group they average ten years older (44) than the national median, are protected by permanent tenure, tolerant principals (who seldom rate a teacher unsatisfactory) and court rulings that make it almost impossible to remove even outright crackpots. Their lobbyists, who have always got on well with legislators, are now fighting tooth & nail against the board's attempt to lower the retirement age from 70 to 65.

By Albert Deutsch:

## Wages & Crime

Boom-Town Judge  
Denies War-Industry Wages  
Increase Delinquent DEC 18 1942

The Fraternal Order of Benevolent Wage-Cutters (FOBWC), which never advocates pay slashes except for patriotic reasons, has recently received aid and comfort from a rather unexpected source.

Several social workers have lately been quoted as stressing high wages as a big factor in wartime juvenile crime. Take, for instance, an Associated Press dispatch last week, quoting the chief probation officer in Buffalo's City Court, which a New York newspaper headed: "Rising Delinquency Laid to 'Fabulous' War Pay of Youth." Don't be greatly surprised of the aforementioned FOBWC comes out with a solemn warning that war-industry wages must be cut in order to rescue American youth from criminal careers.

There's a man down in Norfolk, the East Coast's No. 1 war-boom town, who has an entirely different slant on this subject. He is Judge Herbert G. Cochran of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, whom I interviewed during a brief sojourn in Norfolk three weeks ago.

"On the whole," says Cochran, "the war boom here has had a beneficial effect on our delinquency problem. Most child delinquents come from economically disadvantaged homes. In many homes, the prolonged unemployment of fathers created bad home morale and paved the way for delinquency. Now these fathers are working. They have regained their self-respect and authority, and can give their children many of the things they yearn for and formerly got only by stealing."

"It is true that we have had a serious housing problem since the sudden influx of new workers. But economic betterment in the home has largely counterbalanced that factor."

"Many of the older boys who used to spend their time in mischief-breeding idleness are now working in the shipyards. They are making good wages—I don't think the pay's too high—but at the end of a hard day's work they are generally too tired to hang around on the streets and get into trouble."

Juvenile court statistics in Norfolk reveal no significant rise in child delinquency, Cochran says. There were 799 court cases

but these are mostly girls from other towns last attracted to Norfolk by the large concentration of uniformed men or the chance of a good job. Sex delinquency is on the rise. Children of working mothers are another special problem. Truancy has increased considerably. Children of immigrant workers, living in crowded, insanitary quarters, in homes not yet rooted in the community, account for much of the delinquency.

While child delinquency among white boys and girls has increased, that among Negroes has declined. Cochran attributes this to improved economic conditions among Norfolk Negroes because of the war boom. Runaway girls constitute a big problem.



By Albert Deutsch:

War

# Delinquency

... Not Yet Alarming in  
N. Y. C., But Experts Are Dis-  
turbed by Trend

DEC 15 1942

Here is the composite impression of the delinquency picture in New York City that I get from a shakedown of the expert testimony produced at the State Board of Social Welfare hearings Monday:

¶ The wartime increase in child delinquency here has not yet reached "alarming" proportions. But the outlook for the near future, judging by the general trend, is profoundly disturbing, unless action is quickly taken to strengthen and extend our preventive and corrective services.

¶ Children's Court statistics show an 11 per cent rise in cases for the first 11 months of 1942, as compared with last year's figure. Some witnesses tried to discount this rise by stating that juvenile delinquency still is less than it was a few years ago. They failed to note that any increase at all sharply reverses the steady downward trend of past years.

DEC 15 1942

¶ The rise in girl delinquency—24 per cent—is the gravest aspect of the problem. There has been a sharp increase in unmarried mothers between 13 and 16 since the war started. Offenses involving sex have been a large factor in the general rise. Girl gangs are springing up on the streets.

¶ There is a very marked increase in tension and restlessness among children, a factor not reflected in court statistics. Mrs. Richard Beardsley, chairman of the State Board of Social Welfare investigating committee, notes the same thing happening in all the up-state cities surveyed thus far. This phenomenon mirrors, in large measure, the increased tensions, uncertainties and anxieties of parents who worry about how the war will affect their families. Dr. Stanley P. Davies, executive director of the Community Service Society, says that his agency has observed a marked rise of child problems in families where the father has left for military service or war work in other cities.

¶ The school, where children spend most of their working hours, is a valuable center for preventing and correcting delinquency.

This powerful agency has long been neglected, as Dr. Caroline Zachry pointed out.

¶ The war has created no new problems of juvenile delinquency; it has aggravated those of long standing.

¶ Despite of the hue and cry about Negro "crime waves," the rate of increase in delinquency among Negroes has been lower than among whites, and in Manhattan it has actually decreased this past year. Economic betterment is the answer, as Lester Granger of the National Urban League observed.

DEC 15 1942

¶ Some experts are inclined to stress the moral factor to explain increased delinquency, others the economic factor. Dr. Robert W. Searle of the Greater New York Federation of Churches pointed out that the breakdown of international and political morality in recent years had confused the moral sense of man, permeating down to children. Welfare Commissioner Hodson said that delinquency was mainly caused by economic distress, and advocated a Beveridge plan for America. This reporter agrees with the views of both men.



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Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal  
May 3, 1942

TENNESSEE

## NEGROES GRATEFUL

### Appreciate Law Creating Home For Delinquent Children

To The Commercial Appeal:

We want to take this means of expressing our sincere appreciation to the many friends of both races who were instrumental in securing the passage of the recent bill establishing a delinquent home for negro youth. The Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has had this as its major project for more than 20 years. Everything else has been subordinated to the delinquent home. Now that this has been accomplished we are able to release our energies in the direction of national defense. In fact, our program has already been attuned along this line. At a recent meeting of our Executive Board \$750 was voted to purchase defense bonds. Although this money was taken from our very meager treasury we were proud to do our share in this great struggle to preserve our national heritage.

Hundreds of white and negro citizens of Mississippi have cooperated with us in putting this program over.

Again we thank you for the interest that you have manifested in us and we feel sure that we shall continue to have your aid and assistance on any matters that may arise in the future.

R. O. HUBERT, President.  
B. L. JOHNSON,  
Chairman Legislative Committee.  
Prentiss, Miss.



32-1942

VIRGINIA

Hopewell, Va. News  
April 14, 1942

## Radford Fights Juvenile Delinquency With Program

SINCE publication of our editorial last Friday on how juvenile delinquency increases in war time and how it must be combatted, we have received No. 12 in the New Dominion Series of pamphlets, issued by the University of Virginia, entitled "Recreation Meets A Challenge", which tells the story of organized recreation in Radford, Virginia.

About three years ago the ninth grade pupils started a unit of work on "Improving Urban Culture", using their own community as material for study. Based on the juvenile delinquency program developed by a progressive Commonwealth's Attorney and a progressive City Judge, they drew up a recreation plan which was presented to the City Council.

Less than a year later the City Council passed an ordinance setting up a Recreation Commission, and appropriated funds to start building playgrounds and parks on a long range program and to hire a full-time recreation director. The program had hardly started when the coming of the huge Hercules plant suddenly jumped the population from 6,000 to 12,000.

With an increased appropriation from the City Council and with federal aid, the Recreation Commission has carried on a varied program which has reached all ages. As the booklet points out:

"Radford had learned that complete cooperation of all agencies is necessary for success and efficiency. As a result of such cooperation the city could point with justifiable pride to a three year period during which not one white juvenile delinquent had been added to its records. Also, for the twenty-one month period following the establishment of a park for Negroes, there had not been a single Negro juvenile in court."